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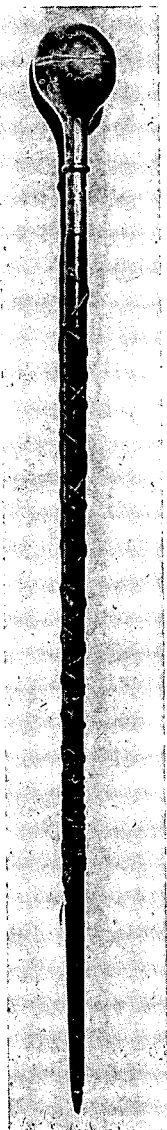
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CIVIL WAR BATON OWNED BY IOWAN

By Francis A. Lord



Shown here is a baton from the collection of Charles Caponi of Mason City, Iowa. The baton was carried during the Civil War by Richard Maddern, leader of the band of the 6th Iowa Infantry. Maddern, born in England, was a skilled musician; he enlisted from Keokuk, Iowa, on Aug. 2, 1861, at the age of 21.

The 6th Iowa band attained great proficiency under the direction of Maddern, and was recognized throughout the division as one of the very best musical organizations in the army. The music it furnished at all ceremonies and at concerts given daily at headquarters, was a source of great pleasure and heartily enjoyed by all.

The 6th Iowa band first saw service in Missouri in late 1861; however, its first big battle was at Shiloh, where the men acquitted themselves well, but, the lieutenant colonel was drunk during the battle and was cashiered from the service when the band was dissolved.

On Aug. 16, 1862, due to the short-sighted policy of the War Department, the 6th Iowa band was discharged from the service. (The same fate befell most of the Federal bands in the Fall of 1862.) The discharge of this excellent band caused deep regret on the part of every soldier in the regiment.

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